

# Croatia

## Environmental Performance Reviews

### Second Review





UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

# ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

## CROATIA

### Second Review



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The United Nations issued the first Environmental Performance Review of Croatia (Environmental Performance Reviews Series No. 7) in 1999.

This volume is issued in English only.

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## *Foreword*

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In 1993, Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) were initiated at the second "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference, in Lucerne, Switzerland. They were intended to cover the ECE member States that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Subsequently, the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy decided to make them part of its regular programme.

At the fifth "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference (Kiev, 2003), the Ministers affirmed their support for the EPR Programme, and decided that the Programme should continue with a second cycle of reviews. This second cycle, while assessing the progress made since the first review process, puts particular emphasis on implementation, integration, financing and the socio-economic interface with the environment. The seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference (Astana, 2011) formally endorsed the third cycle of reviews. As a response to new global and regional concerns, it was decided that integrating green economy into the third cycle of the EPR Programme promises to add value to its work, first, due to its relevance and importance for the countries under review and, second, due to the potential to enhance international cooperation with the community of donors and investors.

Through the peer review process, EPRs also promote dialogue among ECE member States and the harmonization of environmental conditions and policies throughout the region. As a voluntary exercise, an EPR is undertaken only at the request of the country concerned.

The studies are carried out by international teams of experts from the region working closely with national experts from the reviewed country. The teams also benefit from close cooperation with other organizations in the United Nations system, for instance the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as well as with the European Environment Agency (EEA), World Health Organization (WHO) and other organizations.

This is the second EPR of Croatia published by ECE. The review takes stock of progress made by the country in the management of its environment since the country was first reviewed in 1999. It assesses the implementation of the recommendations in the first review (annex I). This second EPR also covers nine issues of importance to the country related to policymaking, planning and implementation, the financing of environmental policies and projects, and the integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors, in particular water management, waste management, biodiversity and protected areas, and tourism.

I hope that this second EPR will be useful in supporting policymakers and representatives of civil society in their efforts to improve environmental management and to further promote sustainable development in Croatia, and that the lessons learned from the peer review process will also benefit other countries of the ECE region.



Sven Alkalaj  
Executive Secretary  
Economic Commission for Europe



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# *Preface*

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The second Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Croatia began in October 2012 with a preparatory mission. During this mission, the structure of the review report was discussed and the time-schedule established. A review mission took place on 12-19 March 2013. The team of international experts taking part included experts from Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia and as well as from the EEA and the secretariats of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and ECE.

The draft EPR report was submitted to Croatia for comment and to the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews in August 2013 for consideration. During its meeting on 1-2 October 2013, the Expert Group discussed the report in detail with representatives of the Government of Croatia, focusing in particular on the conclusions and recommendations made by the international experts.

The EPR recommendations, with suggested amendments from the Expert Group, were then submitted for peer review to the nineteenth session of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy on 24 October 2013. A high-level delegation from Croatia participated in the peer review. The Committee adopted the recommendations as set out in this report.

The Committee on Environmental Policy and the ECE review team would like to thank the Government of Croatia and its experts who worked with the international experts and contributed their knowledge and assistance. ECE wishes the Government of Croatia further success in carrying out the tasks involved in meeting its environmental objectives, including the implementation of the recommendations in this second review.

ECE would also like to express its appreciation to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and to the German Federal Environment Agency for their support to the EPR Programme through the Advisory Assistance Programme for Environmental Protection in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; and to Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, EEA and UNEP for having delegated their experts for the review; and the United Nations Development Programme for its support of the EPR Programme and this review.



*Team of experts for the second EPR of Croatia, 2013*

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